

courage, and selfless efforts on behalf of another, served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest tradition of the United States Naval Services. For his action, he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart by the President of the United States.

Sergeant Weaver spent 11 months in a military hospital for his wounds. Joseph J. McCaffrey, in a letter to Sergeant Weaver's mother wrote, "that his action inspired his men to get the wounded men out of danger." McCaffrey added, "that he literally walked into an artillery barrage and certain death."

Dick Weaver returned to Lees McRae and was graduated in 1957. He was student body president, Phi Beta Kappa, Best All-Around Student, Most Valuable Player in baseball, and the recipient of a prestigious Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina, from where he was graduated in 1959.

After serving in personnel positions at Cone Mills, General Dynamics, and Duke University, Dick founded and served as president of Dick Weaver Associates from 1975 to 1995, and his company was rated by the College and University Personnel Association as one of the top three in the nation.

Dick Weaver has been a friend of mine for decades. As youngsters, we competed against each other on the ball fields of Piedmont North Carolina. In all the years that I have known Dick, I never really knew of the heroism he displayed in Korea. Dick is a humble and self-effacing gentleman who doesn't seek out the glory. I wanted to take this moment, as we celebrate Memorial Day 2013, to honor Dick Weaver and the countless others just like him who serve our country with dignity and distinction.

HONORING KAYLEIGH FAAS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Kayleigh Faas is a sophomore at Needville High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

THE POSITIVE POWER OF GOVERNMENT

What role should government play in our daily lives? In my opinion, government should be a structured framework for our education system, economy, and healthcare programs. In hopes of creating a "more perfect union", our founding fathers strived to create a fair and just system to serve Americans.

We depend on our government to protect its citizens. Government affects all human activity. Some of the important groups are consumers, workers, investors, and the envi-

ronment. The Constitution was designed to defend our "lives, liberties and pursuits of happiness". Only the government has the power to maintain these rights.

Government itself is valuable and beneficial to Americans. It is a powerful force in forming and maintaining a strong society. Citizens have different relationships with their government whether it be at the federal, state, or local level. In my opinion, people should support their governmental systems and view them as an institution rather than an administration. We may not agree with elected officials on all issues, but should work together with them to better our nation. We are lucky to live in a democratic society where we have a voice and the right to vote for our leaders of choice.

We should have a positive attitude towards our democratic government. As stated in our Constitution, our forefathers created our government in order to create a more perfect union and to defend and promote the welfare and tranquility of our citizens. These are assurances that most of the world's countries wish they could achieve.

Government, in my opinion, is valuable and beneficial to all citizens and should continue to positively affect various aspects of our lives on a daily basis. Our government is the only entity that can help us grow together as a strong and healthy nation. It provides the foundation for our economic growth. It also positively impacts our education system and promotes a higher level of competency which results in better lives. Other nations look to our form of government as a model for shaping and bettering their own. Our government has a vital and indispensable role to play in continuing to improve the lives of all Americans. We, as responsible citizens, must support our government system, because after all, WE have created it.

HONORING WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor 32 women who were recognized as New Mexico "Women of Influence" for 2013.

It is important to highlight women in our communities who are achieving incredible success as local business and community leaders. Albuquerque Business First partnered with the local business community to evaluate a record number of nominations for the Women of Influence awards.

I understand the challenges of being a small business owner and overcoming hurdles that are all-too-common for women in a male-dominated culture. I appreciate and applaud this year's honorees, each of whom has contributed to the state of New Mexico in unique and exiting ways.

New Mexico's Women of Influence include CEO's, educators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in financial services, government, health and fitness, non-profits and technology firms.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Virginia R. Dugan, Esquire, Atkinson & Kelsey, P.A.; Annette Gardiner, President, New Mexico Gas Company; Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI, President and CEO, Pettigrew & Associates, P.A.; Jennifer Hise, Vice President, CEMCO, Inc.; Laurie Monfietto, Vice President of Human Resources, PNM Resources;

Dorothy Stermer, Manager, Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. Sandra Taylor-Sawyer, Director, NM Small Business Development Center, CEO, Dream Givers, LLC, Independent Associate, LegalShield.

EDUCATION

Barbara Bergman, Interim Dean, University of New Mexico School of Law; Marilyn Melendez Dykman, Director, University of New Mexico Veterans Resource Center; Dr. Viola E. Florez, Professor and PNM Education Endowed Chair, University of New Mexico College of Education.

ENTREPRENEUR

Sherry M. Keeney, President/CEO, PECOS Management Services, Inc.; Janice J. Lucero, CEO/Owner, MVD Express; Susan MacLean, President & CEO, The Solutions Group; DeAnn Sena O'Connor, Creative Director, dso creative.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Karen M. Bard, Wealth Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch; Dohnia Dorman, MBA, VP of Marketing, Rio Grande Credit Union, Part-Time Adjunct Lecturer II, UNM; Tammy S. Jaramillo, Director of Administration, Burt & Company CPAs, LLC.

GOVERNMENT

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director, El Camino Real Housing Authority; Ann Lerner, Film Liaison, City of Albuquerque; Katherine Carroll Martinez, Director, Construction Industries Division/Manufactured Housing Division, Regulation and Licensing Department, State of New Mexico.

HEALTH/FITNESS

Kristie Bair, J.D., President, Bair Medical Spa; Gayle Dine'Chacon, MD, Surgeon General, Navajo Nation, Associate Professor, UNM School of Medicine; E. DeAnn Eaton Azar, CEO, Haverland Carter Lifestyle Group; Kim E. Hedrick, Vice President Strategic Business Development, University of New Mexico Medical Group, Inc.; Mary G. Martinez, Franchise Owner/CEO, Home Instead Senior Care; Dawn Tschabrun, COO, Chief Nursing Officer, Lovelace Regional Hospital-Roswell.

NONPROFIT

Andrea Fisher Maril, CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico; Kathy Mechenbier, Founder and president of the board, El Ranchito de los Ninos Inc.; Carol Wight, CEO, New Mexico Restaurant Association.

TECHNOLOGY

Marjorie M.K. Hlava, President and chairman, Access Innovations Inc.; Caroline Dennis, Cyber Security and STEM education consultant; Elizabeth J. (Lisa) Kuuttila, President and CEO, STC.UNM.

I congratulate these women leaders and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

A TRIBUTE TO ACACIA SCOTT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Acacia Scott for being named a 2013 recipient of the Dorothy Andrews Kabis Memorial Internship by the National Federation of Republican Women.